



CITY OF LODI COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Approve naming of the Youth Area at Lodi Lake in honor of former Parks and Recreation Director Ron Williamson

MEETING DATE: December 15, 2004

PREPARED BY: Parks and Recreation Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve naming of the Youth Area at Lodi Lake in honor of former Parks and Recreation Director Ron Williamson.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Ron Williamson began his career as a Recreation Supervisor with the Lodi Parks and Recreation Department in April of 1965 under the Directorship of Ed DeBenedetti. It was the beginning of a 35 year tenure with the City that lasted until his retirement in September of 2000.

Ron was introduced to a Lodi Parks and Recreation environment that consisted of only a 5 person office – a dramatic contrast to that which he left upon retiring. His supervisory responsibilities included both adult and youth recreation sports programs. He was also assigned the very important role of liaison to the Boosters of Boys and Girls Sports (BOBS), an organization whose operating budget grew from \$20,000 in 1965 to that of \$300,000 today. Ron also helped author the By-laws that provided the structural and organizational guidelines by which the volunteer organization would be governed. Ron has been credited by both his peers and colleagues for his vision and “long-term” development of the BOBS organization.

During his tenure as a Recreation Supervisor, he was personally and professionally driven to create more balance in the recreation program areas. He coached Comet baseball for two years, a competitive traveling team that ultimately evolved into the creation of a Pony/Colt baseball league. He was personally responsible for organizing the Meteor/Comet basketball programs – a competitive opportunity for 7th and 8th grade basketball enthusiasts. Ron also helped form the first 6-team youth football conference, which ultimately evolved into an 8-team Mountain Valley Youth Football Conference.

Ron Williamson served as the Director of Lodi’s Parks and Recreation Department from December 1985 until his retirement. Under his direction, the City successfully developed Peterson and Katzakian Parks and several Lodi Lake projects. He was responsible for introducing and completing the 2nd edition of the Lodi Parks Master Plan. The document is still being used today. But according to Ron Williamson himself, he takes the most pride in his persistent efforts to establish partnerships with local service clubs. Realizing that “community service” was important to both service clubs and the Parks and Recreation Department, Ron personally solicited their interest and cooperation in developing various parks projects throughout the Lodi community – Emerson Park serves as a good example.


APPROVED:


Janet S. Keeter, Interim City Manager

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We have chosen the Youth Area of Lodi Lake because of Ron Williamson's undying dedication to this community's youth and his passionate affection for the Lodi Lake area. Ron is the consummate Parks and Recreation professional and a perfect ambassador for his profession's motto – "Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs"!

FUNDING: This action has no financial impact upon the City


Tony C. Goehring
Parks and Recreation Director

TG:tl

cc: City Attorney
Parks Superintendent

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-283

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL
NAMING THE LODI LAKE YOUTH AREA
IN HONOR OF FORMER PARKS AND
RECREATION DIRECTOR RON WILLIAMSON

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lodi does hereby name the Lodi Lake Youth Area the "Ron Williamson Youth Area."

Dated: December 15, 2004

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2004-283 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held December 15, 2004, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hansen, Hitchcock, Johnson, Mounce,
and Mayor Beckman

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None



SUSAN J. BLACKSTON
City Clerk